

Washington State Patrol Media Release

Chief John R. Batiste



Captain Jeff DeVere
Government and Media Relations
(360) 753-5299 – office
(360) 753-5469 – fax
<http://www.wsp.wa.gov>

*****For Immediate Release*****

Date: March 27, 2008

Contact: Trooper Mark Baker WSP (509) 993-2946

Contact: Steve Stewart, DOL Motorcycle Program Manager (360) 902-3664

Endorse Your Sport - Spokane Valley Motorcycle Safety Event

On Tuesday April 1, 2008, from 5:30 a.m. until 12:00 p.m., community partners will assemble for a motorcycle safety event at the Valley Point Pines church parking lot, 714 S. Pines Road in the Spokane Valley. The Washington State Patrol and the Department of Licensing will be partnering with Spokane Motor School and West Side Motor Sports in an effort to encourage motorcyclists to get their required motorcycle endorsement.

The Department of Licensing Motorcycle Program Manager, WSP motors officers, and instructors from both rider education schools in the Spokane area, will be available to answer questions about motorcycle training program opportunities. There will be training motorcycles, cruiser bikes and sports bikes demonstrating the DOL skills course and some specialized riding. We encourage the public, motorcycle mechanics, local riding groups and the media to stop by and ask questions.

Motorcycle collision data shows that approximately 60 percent of motorcycle fatalities are single-vehicle incidents, with the most common causes being excessive speed, impaired driving and inability to stay in the lane of travel. Approximately 40 percent of the motorcyclists killed last year were found to be under the influence of alcohol and 34 percent of the motorcyclists that died did not have a motorcycle endorsement. Proper training and judgment is critical in the operation of a motorcycle.

The WSP will continue to take a zero-tolerance stance on enforcing DUI, Reckless Driving and driver licensing laws. In July of 2007, new laws and policies gave troopers the option of impounding vehicles, including motorcycles, for being operated by unendorsed operators. The WSP impounded 133 motorcycles, which may have contributed to an 18 percent reduction in motorcycle fatality collisions. The WSP will continue to expect motorcyclists to be properly endorsed. To get more information on obtaining a motorcycle endorsement or information on additional rider training, go to web www.endorseyoursport.com.

See you at the event.

#